

Transportation Conformity Working Group

Interagency Consultation

Meeting Summary

Tuesday, October 26, 2004
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Metrolink Office
700 South Flower Street, 26th Floor
Orange County Conference Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017

The Transportation Conformity Working Group (TCWG) held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 26, 2004 in the Metrolink downtown offices. The following summary is intended to summarize the matters discussed. An audio recording of the entire meeting is available for review at SCAG's office.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at about 10:00 AM by the Chair, Douglas Kim, Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA).

2.0 WELCOME AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE:

In Person:

Chair, Douglas Kim, MTA
Andy Woods, Caltrans
Arnie Sherwood, ITS
Ashwani Vasishth, SCAG
Carla Walecka, TCA
Eric Carlson, MTA
Eyvonne Sells, SCAQMD
Gretchen Hardison, LA-EAD
Herman S.J. Cheng, MTA
Jose Gutierrez, LA-EAD
Kathryn Higgins, SCAQMD
Kim*, LA Bureau of Sanitation
Leann Williams, Caltrans District 7
Rosemary Ayala, SCAG
Sandra Balmir, FTA/FHWA
Sean Young, Caltrans
Sylvia Patsouras, SCAG
Ted Harris, SCAG

Via Teleconference/Videoconference:

Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD
Dennis Wade, CARB
Doug Ito, CARB
Jean Mazur, FHWA
Karina O'Connor, US EPA

Lisa Poe, SANBAG
Mike Brady, Caltrans HQ
Mohammed*
Rachel*
Shirley Medina, RCTC
Ted Matley, FTA

** Complete information was not recorded*

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments at this meeting.

4.0 CHAIR'S REPORT (Chair Douglas Kim, LA MTA)

Chair Douglas Kim, LA MTA, noted that Charles Keynejad had retired from SCAG and that a plaque had been prepared for him, to commemorate his facilitation of the TCWG for many years. He noted also that SCAG was established on October 28, 1965, and expressed regret at having lost a key component of the institutional memory for conformity issues in the region.

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Approval of the August 24 Meeting Summary (Chair Douglas Kim, LA MTA)

Some changes and clarifications were proposed. There was an extended discussion of protocols for the Timely Implementation Report on the TCMs. The Meeting Summary was approved, subject to correction.

6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Implementation of CARB's Refuse Truck Rule (Sarah Siwek, Sarah Siwek & Associates)

This item was deferred to the end of the agenda.

6.2 2004 RTIP Update (Rosemary Ayala, SCAG)

Rosemary Ayala, SCAG, presented an update on the 2004 RTIP, and explained its relationship with the STIP. Non-STIP amendments for Imperial County projects were being prepared. She clarified that such an administrative amendment did not require Federal approval.

6.3 EPA PM2.5 Rule Update (Karina O'Connor, US EPA)

There was no new information presented on this issue.

6.4 8-hour Ozone Phase 2 Rule Update (Karina O'Connor, US EPA)

There was no new information presented on this issue.

6.5 Proposed Process for 8-hour Ozone SIP Development (Ted Harris, SCAG)

Ted Harris presented an overview of the process to reaffirm the existing ozone conformity findings and to conduct additional modeling and analyses to fulfill the requirements imposed by the new 8-hour Ozone standards. There was a discussion of the potential timelines for the 2007 AQMP/SIP and the 2007 RTP.

6.6 TCM Process Update (Ted Harris, SCAG)

Ted Harris, SCAG, provided an overview of SCAG's protocol for Timely Implementation Reporting on designated TCM projects to assure that projects were kept on track. He described quarterly and annual monitoring and the use of the updated database being developed in coordination with the County Transportation Commissions. Ms. Balmir stated that it was important to make sure a satisfactory process was established well in advance of the next RTP/RTIP cycle. Sylvia Patsaouras, SCAG, stated that Staff would send out a notice inviting TCWG members to participate in a sub-committee to help shape the process. SCAG would also prepare detailed documentation of the process, to assist the discussion.

6.7 2007 AQMP/SIP Coordination (Group Discussion)

Eyvonne Sells, SCAQMD, presented a summary of discussions between the District and SCAG with regard to coordination issues for the 2007 AQMP and the RTP process. Tentatively, the final AQMP would be submitted in March of 2007 to CARB for review, with final submission to US EPA in June, 2007. A key concern was with the need for budgets that suit the new standards. Doug Ito, CARB, stated that an updated EMFAC would be available by June, 2005, for use in the new SIP. He stated that the 2005 model would be an improvement over the existing EMFAC. Mr. Harris stated that SCAG would provide the updated activity data by December, 2004, to assist CARB in developing the EMFAC update.

Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, described Ventura County's Rate of Progress (ROP) Plan development. It was the County's understanding that the ROP would serve the purpose of the applicable SIP. Key issues are whether the County would be required to apply photochemical modeling or not, and whether an ROP Plan would be required.

6.8 Information Sharing (Group Discussion)

Ted Harris stated that SCAG was in the process of mounting a web page for the TCWG, which would serve as the point of distribution for future agendas and attachments.

Karina O'Connor stated that the next Statewide Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting would take place in Sacramento.

Mike Brady, Caltrans, stated that he maintained an informal TCWG page off the Caltrans web site, for which he would send the URL to Mr. Harris for distribution to the group.

6.1 Implementation of CARB's Refuse Truck Rule (Sarah Siwek, Sarah Siwek & Associates)

Sarah Siwek, Sarah J. Siwek & Associates, presented an overview of CARB's Refuse Truck Rule that was adopted in July, 2004. Although the Rule only requires particulate matter (PM) reductions, many areas also need NOx reductions. Technology developed subsequently to the Rule adoption now permits both PM and NOx reductions simultaneously, and Ms. Siwek is currently conducting outreach to make jurisdictions aware of this opportunity. Ms. Siwek is sending letters to cities and counties to inform them that the costs of implementing the Rule can be offset through the contracts the cities and counties have with the refuse haulers. The Rule presents a unique opportunity to capture cost-effective NOx reductions, if actions are

taken immediately. She stressed that there was a very narrow window of opportunity, probably the only one that would present itself within this decade.

7.0 COMMENT PERIOD

Ben Cacatian noted that Shahab Rabbani, SCAG, had requested an update on VMT Demonstration Report, and there might need to be discussions.

The next meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was discussed and it was decided that one meeting should be held during November and December, and it was set for Friday, December 10, 2004, 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, at SCAG's Downtown Office.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 Noon.